

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 DAMASC 00186 171441Z

41

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 EA-10 IO-10 SAJ-01 SAM-01 EB-07 /091 W

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R 171430Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2409

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 186

USIA FOR INA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, US, UR, SY, SOPN

SUBJ: U.S. SOVIET TRADE AGREEMENT

1. ON JANUARY 17, DAMASCUS DAILY ATTHAWRA PUBLISHED FIRST ITEM ON SOVIET REFUSAL TO ACCEPT TERMS OF RECENT U.S. TRADE LEGISLATION. COLUMNIST SAYS SOVIET ACTION IS "IMPORTANT TURNING POINT" THAT COULD SPELL END OF POLICY OF DETENTE. AUTHOR POINTS TO S.E. ASIA AND M.E. AS OTHER AREAS OF RISING CONFRONTATION BETWEEN U.S. AND SOVIET UNION.

2. COLUMNIST FOCUSES LARGELY ON QUESTION OF JEWISH IMMIGRATION WHICH, HE SAYS, IS SUBJECT OF PRIME INTEREST TO SYRIANS. TERMING SOVIET ACTION A SHOCK TO TEL AVIV, AUTHOR BLAMES ZIONIST ELEMENTS WHO IGNORED WARNINGS FROM SOVIET UNION TO EFFECT THAT U.S. CONGRESS WAS MEDDLING IN HER DOMESTIC AFFAIRS. WRITER SAYS THAT U.S. PERSISTED, NEVERTHELESS, BECAUSE IT BELIEVED IT COULD FORCE ENTIRE WORLD TO AGREE TO ITS INTERPRETATION OF DETENTE.
MURPHY

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NNN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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